

West Bridgewater Public Schools, Rose L. MacDonald School, Stepping Stone Drive, W.Bridgewater, MA 02379

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Dear parents/guardians:

Nov. 16, 2017

The arrival of the Term 1 reporting period marks a point in the year for assessing student progress on the first months of school and a chance to set goals for the coming semester. It is an opportunity for you to work collaboratively with your children's teacher and define a path for future academic and social-emotional growth for your child. Of course, children should be a part of this collaboration. When discussing report cards with your child, focus on the positive first. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you care about their accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement. Good effort, attendance, and work habits should be acknowledged as important components of academic achievement. Be careful not to overreact to grades you view to be unsatisfactory. Talk to your child and their teacher about these areas. Ask questions to gain insight on how you can support your child and plan for future improvement. The message we strive to convey to our children should be - *This is important. You can do it and we (parents and teachers) are here to help.* Upcoming teacher/parent conferences are a perfect opportunity to discuss these questions/concerns with teachers.

This is also a good time to reflect on the current study and homework routines with your child. Involving your child gives her/him ownership and significance in this process, and this makes the report card relevant not only to you, but also to your child. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success. Keep a lookout in your child's backpack or email for your conference time. Please confirm the time with your child's classroom teacher.

HALF DAY: Nov. 17th (Fri.) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Conferences - 1pm - 3pm

HALF DAY: Nov. 20th (Mon) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Conferences - 5pm-7pm

HALF DAY: Nov. 21st (Tues.) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Check with classroom teacher for times

HALF DAY: Nov. 22nd (Wed.)- Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Staff/Students-Thanksgiving Break begins

SURROUND CARE REMINDER: There is NO Surround Cafe on November 22nd - Wednesday.



PTO-VENDOR FAIR - NOV. 18th: Come join us!! WBPTO's Annual Shopping Event, November 18th from 10am – 2pm at the RLM School. Our one stop Holiday Shopping Fair supports our PTO!! There will be lots of tables, items include jewelry, candles, food products, bags, home-wares, clothing, dog items, WB logo, crafters & more!! Rain or Shine – Free Parking – Baked Goods – Awesome Raffles!! Don't miss out!! Email Kim at k_a_cowie@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

PTO-COOKIES WITH SANTA: Dec 2nd, Sat. from 12:30pm-3pm - An afternoon of cookies, crafts, pictures with Santa, raffles. Raffles will be called at 3pm. Tattoos on hand or cheek will be available "*Special Guest...The Grinch!*"

Volunteers needed: Contact Lori Torrey (laurieaholland@yahoo.com) or Kim Kellogg (k_a_cowie@yahoo.com)

PTO-ELF SHOPPE: Mark your calendar for holiday shopping on Friday, December 1st from 6pm-8pm. There will also be shopping on Dec. 2nd, Saturday from 9am-3pm. Come for a day of holiday fun for all. Wrap your shopping around Cookies with Santa. Come shop in the morning or afternoon. There will be a parent waiting area if the children want to shop on their own and we have gift wrapping for an additional fee. PTO can also accept credit card purchases at the Elf Shop this year! Hope everyone takes part in our "winter wonderland" and the students' favorite fundraiser of the year! This is a great time for kids to shop for family members! **Volunteers needed:** Contact Mrs. Lori Torrey (laurieaholland@yahoo.com) or Mrs. Kim Kellogg (k_a_cowie@yahoo.com)

WIN A RIDE TO SCHOOL IN A POLICE CAR: Raffle tickets are \$2/each. You must be a WB student to win this prize. (WB resident or school choice). Winner will be called during the WBPTO annual Santa's Breakfast on Dec. 2nd. You do not have to be present to win! Tickets will be available at the breakfast. For advanced sales contact-Mrs. Laurie Torrey at laurieaholland@yahoo.com). Tickets will be on sale at the WB Police Department Nov. 12th-18th.

RLM PRIDE - GENEROSITY: This month we are asking students to think about what it means to be *generous*. As the teachers and children reflected on the word, they talked about the celebration of Thanksgiving. They discussed how generous our friends and family are with their time and talents. We have so much to be thankful for. Our generosity assembly will take place Wed., Nov. 22nd.

ROCK YOUR SOCKS FUNDRAISER: The fundraiser held on October 26th raised \$180 to benefit the Brockton ARC. Thank you to all that donated and wore your crazy socks!

NATURE QUEST: Certificates were presented to all students who participated in the scavenger hunt. We thank the WB Conservation Commission and The Open Space and Recreational Committee for sending Mr. John Delano and Mr. Steven Winters to host this nature related scavenger hunt during recess time. Look for your child's *Certificate of Participation* in this fun event.

ZONES OF REGULATION: As part of a school based initiative, Mrs. Cosgrove, Behavior Specialist, will be visiting classrooms this month to introduce The Zones of Regulation which comes from the Social Thinking Curriculum by Michelle Garcia Winner. The Zones of Regulation is a curriculum that is geared toward helping students gain skills in consciously regulating their actions, which in turn leads to an increase in control and problem solving abilities. These monthly lessons will continue throughout the year to deepen the students' understanding of their emotions. The children will participate in class discussions after the lesson and the terminology will be used throughout their day.

BOX TOPS: You all are doing a fantastic job clipping and submitting Box Tops. We have collected over \$670 so far! Now that the first term has come to end, so has our first Box Top challenge. The grade that raised the most has earned an extra recess period. First grade raised \$212.30 during the first term. Second grade students saved \$220.80 since the start of school. Third graders collected \$214.20 in Box Tops. (We have \$23.80 in miscellaneous clippings and \$2 earned on the app.) That means **the winning grade is GRADE 2!** They celebrated their victory with an extra recess! The Student Council will soon introduce the next challenge for Term 2. Please look for the monthly collection sheet that has been sent home where you can tape/glue the Box Tops for easy counting and return. Loose Box Tops are gladly accepted as well. Just be sure to have your child's classroom teacher noted on the bag/envelope so that credit can be given for the next challenge! Also, **please make sure the clippings have not expired.**

MA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: We would like to learn how our students get to and from school in order to plan safe and healthy transportation options. Please complete one survey (www.masaferoutessurvey.org) for each child K-8th grade - deadline date - **today - Thursday, November 16.** The survey will take less than 3 minutes to complete. Please select "West Bridgewater" and then your child's school. If our school receives a 50% response rate or higher we will earn a \$250 Visa gift card to be use towards walking/biking initiatives! The deadline to complete this survey is November 16th. Thanks! Questions, please contact Julie Amaral at jamaral@wbridgewater.com.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Absences should be **reported** to our Absence Line 508 894-1240 Press 1. The voice mail message should include your child's name, the name of the classroom teacher & reason for absence.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: Please be sure to send in ANY and ALL changes to how your child goes home. We have had quite a few children lately who are confused on what to do (go on the bus, parent pick up or Surround Care). Dismissal is a very busy time and runs much smoother if teachers, office and child know how they are getting home.

PTO MEETING: Howard School - 7pm - Library -Dates: 11/28, 12/19, 1/30, 2/27, 4/24, & 5/29 - All are welcome.

INCLUSION MATTERS: Join Inclusion Matters for a meeting with The Federation for Children with Special Needs as they present to our group "Parents, Students and Schools as Partners". This meeting will help parents navigate the special education process and learn about the rights and responsibilities in special education. Meetings will take place at the MSHS in the Learning Commons. Meeting dates are Dec 4, Feb 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4.

STAFF/PARENT IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL: **CANCELLED:** Nov. 27th, Monday. Our next scheduled meetings are Dec. 18, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26, April 30. We will have meetings once a month on Mondays at 3:30pm in the Reading Room. Thank you to parents and teachers who volunteered to be on the Staff/Parent Improvement Council.

BIRTHDAYS WITH THE PRINCIPAL: November students' birthday celebration will be on Dec. 1st - Friday - by grade level for lunch. Students bring a lunch from home or order their lunch at school.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, Dec. 11th at the MSHS in The Learning Commons at 6:30pm.

